

USS FAIRFAX COUNTY (LST-1193)

FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK 09569

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From: Commanding Officer, USS FAIRFAX COUNTY (LST 1193)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09-BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, D.C. 20374

Subj: Command History; Submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Command History for year 1981

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.


R. L. POWERS

1981

January

1-31 Inport Little Creek

February

1 Inport Little Creek
2 Underway local OPS
3-4 Underway local OPS
5-28 Inport Little Creek
16-22 Flagship CPR 6
23-28 Flagship PHIBGRU II

March

1-8 Inport Little Creek
9 Underway Ammo on-load
10-11 Inport Little Creek
12-22 Underway Glasgow, Scotland - Extended Arm 81
23-26 Port visit (refuel Loch Striven) Glasgow Scotland
27-31 Underway Extended Arm 81

April

1-30 Underway Extended Arm 81

May

1 Port visit Tromso, Norway
1-4 Underway to Kiel, Germany
5-8 Port visit Kiel, Germany
9 Underway to Copenhagen, Denmark
10-11 Port visit Copenhagen, Denmark
12-13 Underway to Portsmouth, England
14-17 Port visit Portsmouth, England
18-26 Underway Little Creek
27-31 Inport Little Creek
27 Visit by CPR 6

June

1-28 Inport Little Creek
16 Commenced summer Mid'n training
29 Underway BASCOLEX (Local OPS)
30 Underway local OPS

Enclosure (1)

July

1 Underway local OPS
2-14 Inport Little Creek
10 Change of Command CDR R. L. POWERS relieved CDR J. H. HEIDT
15 Underway local OPS
16 Inport Little Creek
17 Underway local OPS
18-23 Underway RESPHIBLEX
24-28 Inport Little Creek
29 Underway local OPS
30 Inport Little Creek
31 Underway local OPS

August

1-2 Inport Little Creek
3-12 Underway Ocean Venture II (causeway Ship)
3-4 Moorhead City Marines onload
13 Inport Roosevelt Roads
14-21 Underway Ocean Venture II
22-31 Inport Little Creek (ended MID'N Training)

September

1-13 Inport Little Creek
14-15 Underway local OPS
16-17 Inport Little Creek
18 Underway Dependent's cruise
19-22 Inport Little Creek
28 Underway Craney Island fuel-ammo off-load
29-30 Inport Little Creek

October

1-2 Underway Chester, PA
2-4 Inport Sun Shipyard, Chester, PA.
5-31 In Drydock Sun Shipyard (Entered 5 OCT)

November

1-30 In Drydock Sun Shipyard

December

1-13 In Drydock Sun Shipyard
14-17 Inport Sun Shipyard (undocked 14 Dec)
18 Underway Sea trails
19 Underway to Little Creek
20-31 Inport Little Creek (Holiday leave)

Enclosure (1)

December Con't

- 29 Recieved Meritorious Unit Commendation from CPR 6
- 31 SURFLANT awarded Engineering "E" Damage Control "DC", Amphibious Assault award, Communication "E", Cunnery systems "E", and Supply "E"

Enclosure (1)

Highlights:

During the first two months of 1981 FAIRFAX COUNTY was busy preparing for operation Extended Arm 81. Extensive alterations were made for special operations in the Norwegian sea, so that the ship could embark special intelligence, sonar, and EOD units. Upon the successful completion of our mission we visited several Northern European ports, returning on the 27th of May.

After a short period of stand down in June, FAIRFAX COUNTY received its first group of midshipmen for summer training and commenced preparations for the upcoming Change of Command and for our third overhaul period (starting in October). The ship also began preparations for Ocean Venture II with several underway training periods. On July 10th, CDR Robert L. POWERS relieved CDR John H. HEIDT as Commanding Officer of the FAIRFAX COUNTY. On July 18th exercise RESPHIBLEX commenced. During this exercise, while serving as plane guard for the USS GUAM, the rescue of two Helicopter Pilots who had fallen overboard when a Helicopter crashed on the GUAM was carried out in an exemplary manner.

In August, after loading causeways on board, FAIRFAX COUNTY participated in Ocean Venture II as a member of PHIBRON 8, and was scheduled to drop off the causeways at Vieques Island, however a hurricane prevented that part of the operation. Upon our return, at the end of August, the last of our midshipmen summer trainee's departed and earnest preparations for Lot I of our overhaul commenced. On 2 October the ship and crew were welcomed royally in Chester, Pa by Sun Shipyard, the Mayor of Chester, and the Chester High School Band. On 5 October FAIRFAX COUNTY was moved into drydock and started Lot I of overhaul. The relations between the ship's crew and the shipyard were cooperative - ensuring that Lot I was completed on time and with little friction. While in Chester FAIRFAX COUNTY was visited by Congressman Edgar, the Congressional Representative for the Chester District. RADM JOHNSON, COMNAVBASE, Philadelphia also visited FAIRFAX COUNTY during Lot I. Both were clearly impressed with FAIRFAX COUNTY and her crew. FAIRFAX COUNTY undocked on 14 December and began preparations for sea trials. On 18 December FAIRFAX COUNTY departed Chester for sea trials which were completed successfully. After vehicle onload, FAIRFAX COUNTY departed Chester enroute to Little Creek for holiday leave and upkeep and preparation for Lot II of ROH scheduled to begin on 5 January 1982.

Enclosure (1)